Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Detective Redditt.

Mr. Redditt, will you please stand, raise your right hand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated.

Will counsel for the witness identify himself for the committee, please?

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Curtis R. Smothers, Washington, D.C.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. The Chair now recognizes staff counsel, Gene Johnson.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will you state your full name for the record.

TESTIMONY OF EDWARD REDDITT, FORMERLY OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. REDDITT. Edward Estes Redditt.

Mr. JOHNSON. Would you give your date of birth?

Mr. REDDITT. January 10, 1931.

Mr. JOHNSON. And would you tell us how you are employed?

Mr. REDDITT. I am employed with the Memphis housing community development as special projects administrator.

Mr. JOHNSON. There was a time when you became a member of the Memphis Police Department; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That's true.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will you tell us exactly when that was?

Mr. REDDITT. I started school in November of 1960.

Mr. JOHNSON. Commencing with your starting as a member of the Memphis Police Department, will you give us a chronology of your assignments up to February 1968.

Mr. REDDITT. As a patrolman walking a beat in 1960 and 1961; later into the detention, the jail, in between special assignments, then into the squad car. From the squad car to the detective in juvenile bureau in between assignments; from there to police community relations; from there to other assignments.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, in February 1968, you were working at that time with the community relations department; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That's true.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then there came a time when you had a change of assignments?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, will you explain to the committee the change of assignments working from community relations—what was your new assignment?

Mr. REDDITT. The new assignment was working with the bureau of intelligence.

Mr. JOHNSON. Had you ever worked for the bureau of intelligence before?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Can you tell the committee, if you know, what were the reasons for the change of your assignments from community relations to the intelligence section of the police department?

Mr. REDDITT. It is my opinion
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Mr. JOHNSON. Did there ever
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Mr. REDDITT. I did not quite u

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Mr. REDDITT. It is my opinion that it was to surveil the activities surrounding the strike itself.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did there ever come a time once the assignments changed that you had an opportunity to discuss this with police officials and ask at any point in time what the purpose of the change of assignment was?

Mr. REDDITT. I did not quite understand that.

Mr. JOHNSON. My question is having been assigned to the community relations department, then a change of assignments came when you were assigned to the intelligence section. My question is, was there ever a time after the change that you made any inquiries from any of the police officials why the assignment change was made?

Mr. REDDITT. No; it wasn't customary, as I said, in my orders I had been assigned previously to other assignments, to other details and very seldom they were questioned.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, exactly what were you assigned to do, bearing in mind having not worked with the intelligence section before. I gather at some point in time somebody had to tell you exactly what they wanted you to do in your new assignment.

Mr. REDDITT. To keep an eye on and report activities, unusual activities surrounding the sanitation workers, such as out-of-town license plates, some individual strange individuals, comments, meetings and things that may have occurred. I could not attend secret meetings but it was all hearsay.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did, in the process of that assignment, did you keep your superiors at the Memphis Police Department aware of what you were doing and exactly what was the result of it?

Mr. REDDITT. Through memos or reports or sometimes through telephone.

Mr. JOHNSON. As a member of the intelligence section did members of the Black community castigate you for the assignment you had suggesting that you had become an official informer on the sanitation strikers?

Mr. REDDITT. I would say you would always have that, irrespective.

Mr. JOHNSON. What you are suggesting is—and correct me if I am wrong about it—you are suggesting that due to your new assignment there were those in the Black community who viewed your new assignment as one who had betrayed them in that you were keeping an eye on or surveilling their activity and reporting it back to the Memphis Police Department. Am I correct in that?

Mr. REDDITT. That would be correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did you have a partner in this assignment?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Who was that partner?

Mr. REDDITT. Willie B. Richmond.

Mr. JOHNSON. There came a time from February to sometime in March, the early part of April, that the assignment was changed, and I am directing your attention specifically to April 3, the morning of April 3, 1968. On that morning, did you get a change of assignments?

Mr. REDDITT. In my opinion, it was a change of assignment.